



# Southeast Fishery Bulletin

National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office, 9721 Executive Center Drive N., St. Petersburg, FL 33702

## FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mark Godcharles, mark.godcharles@noaa.gov  
(727) 570-5305, FAX: (727) 570-5583  
<http://caldera.sero.nmfs.gov>

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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### COMMERCIAL KING MACKEREL FISHERY CLOSED FOR VESSELS USING RUN-AROUND GILLNETS IN THE SOUTHERN FLORIDA WEST COAST SUBZONE

Beginning 6:00 a.m., local time, January 28, 2002, the commercial run-around gillnet fishery for Gulf group king mackerel in the southern Florida west coast subzone is closed. NOAA Fisheries announced closure of this fishery after projecting that landings would reach the quota (520,312 pounds) on January 27, 2002. The gillnet fishery will remain closed in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) through 6:00 a.m., January 21, 2003, unless changed by a future notification in the Federal Register.

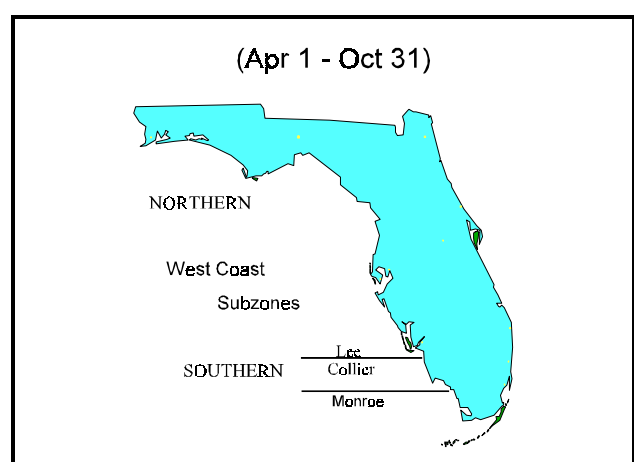
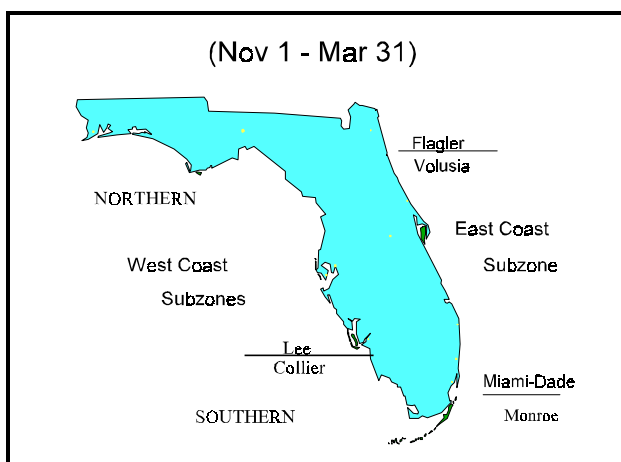
This action closes the commercial run-around gillnet fishery for Gulf group king mackerel in the EEZ of the southern Florida west coast subzone. The southern subzone is that part of the Florida west coast subzone which from November 1 through March 31 extends south and west from 25° 20.4' N. lat. (a line directly east from the Miami-Dade/Monroe County, Florida boundary) to 26° 19.8' N. lat. (a line directly west from the Lee/Collier County, Florida, boundary), i.e., the area off Collier and Monroe Counties. From April 1 through October 31, the southern subzone is that part of the Florida west coast subzone which is

between 26° 19.8' N. lat. and 25° 48' N. lat. (a line directly west from the Monroe/Collier County, Florida, boundary), i.e., the area off Collier County (See figures below).

Closure of the commercial run-around gillnet fishery complies with the Fishery Management Plan for Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources of the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic and is necessary to protect and rebuild the Gulf group king mackerel resource. Current information on the status of the commercial fisheries for Gulf group king mackerel is provided on the reverse side of this bulletin.

During the closure, no one may fish for or possess king mackerel in or from the closed area when on board a vessel issued a Federal king mackerel permit with a gillnet endorsement. Also, during the closure, no one on board a vessel using or possessing a gillnet with a stretched-mesh size of 4.75 inches (12.1 cm) or larger in the southern Florida west coast subzone may fish for or possess Gulf group king mackerel.

## GULF GROUP KING MACKEREL: SEASONAL BOUNDARIES OF FLORIDA SUBZONES



**GULF GROUP KING MACKEREL:  
STATUS OF QUOTAS AND DAILY TRIP/LANDING LIMITS  
FOR COMMERCIAL FISHERIES FOR THE 2001/2002 FISHING YEAR**

<u>ZONE/SUBZONE</u>	<u>QUOTA (POUNDS, lb)</u>	<u>DAILY VESSEL TRIP LIMITS</u>	<u>DURATION OF TRIP LIMITS</u>			<u>STATUS</u>	
						<u>BEGINNING</u>	<u>CURRENT</u>
EASTERN ZONE (Florida)	2,250,000						
East Coast Subzone <sup>1</sup>	1,040,625	50 Fish 75 Fish <sup>2</sup>	Nov 1 Feb 1	until until	780,469 lb 1,040,625 lb	Opened 11/01/2001	<b>Open: 75 Fish/day</b>
West Coast Subzones	1,209,375						
<u>Northern</u>							
Hook and Line	168,750	1,250 lb 0 lb	Jul 1 Nov 10'01	until until	168,750 lb Jul 1'02	Opens 07/01/2002	<b>Closed: 11/10/01</b>
<u>Southern</u>							
Hook and Line	520,312	1,250 lb 500 lb	Jul 1 390,234	until until	390,234 lb 520,312 lb	Opened 07/01/2001	<b>Open: 1,250 lb/day</b>
Gillnet	520,312	25,000 lb	Jan 22 '02	until	520,312 lb		<b>Closed: 01/28/2002 <sup>3</sup></b>
WESTERN ZONE	1,010,00	3,000 lb	Jul 1	until	1,010,000 lb	Opens 07/01/2002	<b>Closed: 11/19/01</b>
(Texas - Alabama)		0 lb	Nov 19	until	Jul 1'02		
Hook and Line							

<sup>1</sup> The Florida east coast subzone, located between the Flagler/Volusia and Miami-Dade/Monroe County boundaries, exists only from November 1 through March 31, when the Gulf migratory group of king mackerel extends into that area. From April 1 through October 31, king mackerel landed in that area belong to the Atlantic migratory group.

<sup>2</sup> Trip limit would increase from 50 to 75 fish/day on February 1, 2002, if less than 75 percent or 780,469 pounds of the Florida east coast subzone quota is harvested prior to February 1, 2002.

<sup>3</sup> Fishery is closed through 6:00 a.m., January 21, 2003.

To report violations of commercial trip limits or closures, contact our Office of Law Enforcement at 727/570-5344 or 1-800/853-1964. NOAA Fisheries, or the National Marine Fisheries Service, is an agency of the Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Additional information on southeastern fisheries is available from the Fishery Management Councils. The Web site and e-mail addresses for the Gulf of Mexico Council are <http://www.gulfcouncil.org> and [gulfcouncil@gulfcouncil.org](mailto:gulfcouncil@gulfcouncil.org), and those for the South Atlantic Council are <http://www.safmc.nmfs.gov> and [safmc@noaa.gov](mailto:safmc@noaa.gov), respectively.